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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 May 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Tobacco and Human Rights

On 23 June 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted Resolution HRC/RES/35/23. The Resolution urges States to work towards the full implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals and targets with a view to contributing to the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including Target 3.a "strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries as appropriate".

Tobacco remains the leading cause of global preventable death, killing over 7 million annually from tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke and costing the global economy nearly two percent of its GDP. The Framework Convention Alliance respectfully requests that subsequent HRC Resolutions and processes addressing the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development consider:

- Recalling that the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a human right as enshrined in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as, with respect to non-discrimination, in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- [Welcoming the adoption by the 17th World Conference on Tobacco or Health of the Cape Town Declaration on Human Rights and a Tobacco-free World, which made specific reference to resolution 35/23 and to Sustainable Development Goal 3 and called upon the Human Rights Council to take into account the threat tobacco poses to the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.]

- Addressing the impact on the right to health of the tobacco epidemic, which causes seven million preventable deaths annually and costs the global economy nearly two percent of GDP, creating a substantial barrier to economic and human development.

- Encouraging the Special Rapporteur, while considering the many ways towards the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, to pay particular attention to the obligation of States to address human rights implications over the whole life-cycle of tobacco growing, manufacturing, marketing, distribution, consumption and post consumption.

- Encouraging States, when reporting on the implementation of the right to health under human rights treaties, to provide information on measures taken and challenges faced in implementing the FCTC and reducing the harm caused by tobacco and on challenges faced that affect human rights.

The Framework Convention Alliance wishes the 38th session of Human Rights Council every success and sincerely hopes that under the guidance of its President, Ambassador Vojislav Šuc, it will continue to promote the "right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health."